

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

May 31, 2016

MINUTES

I. The meeting was called to order.

II. The following members were present: Angela Spencer, Tonya Amedon, David Kaye, Irene Packer-Halsey, Georgia McCauley, Francisco Alves, Kavonte Duckett, Adam Book, Gene Stanton, and Marguerite Vacca-Kaye.

III. The following persons who have submitted applications for appointment to the Human Relations Commission were present: Lee Wisner, Roger Sobkowiak, Wayne Horrell and Tracy Bowie.

IV. The April 2016 HRC meeting minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved. Kavonte moved and Tonya seconded. Irene asked about contacting FPD Chief Hargis to request that the department's recruitment efforts for Hispanics be included in next year's report, and HRC Chair Angela Spencer said that she would send a letter making that request.

V. It was reported that more than \$2,000 remains on hand. Some Awards Dinner expenses still need to be paid, and the Executive Committee is making sure that give-away items and other expenditures are made by the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2016.

VI. The Community Relations Committee reported that the Asian-American Heritage Festival on May 21 was very well attended, and a number of survey forms were completed. It was also reported that the Human Trafficking Forum on May 18 drew a large crowd and covered a wide scope of issues. This event was planned and organized by representatives of the Commission for Women and the HRC.

VII. The Government Relations Committee reported that HRC representatives recently met with Brunswick Mayor Karin Tome to discuss how the HRC might be able to offer information and assistance on human rights issues. Mayor Tome was very receptive, and intends to look for ways for the HRC to become more involved.

VIII. Gene Stanton asked about progress on sending a resolution from the HRC to the County Council recommending that sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination protections be added to the Frederick County Code. Angela Spencer said that the Executive Committee has been working with Council member Jessica Fitzwater, who is trying to line up the votes needed. Angela said that the Executive Committee had decided to follow Jessica Fitzwater's lead, as was done with the HRC resolution to the Council recommending repeal of the English as Official Language Ordinance last year, and hopes to have something done by June 30. Gene said that his preference would be for the HRC to proceed with sending the resolution to the County Council, and let the gay community work on getting the needed Council votes.

IX. Kavonte Duckett reported on the efforts to revive the Necktie Clubs at County high schools, and said that meetings are being scheduled to do this.

X. Angela Spencer reported that the Executive Committee is recommending that the County Executive reappoint HRC members Adam Book and Mari Lee, and that the Executive Committee will make recommendations next month on filling the two other vacant positions on the HRC.

XI. Angela Spencer said that a decision has been made to focus on bullying in the workplace at the HRC's Legislative Luncheon and Human Rights Day event in December. It is believed that videos are being made in the Frederick area about bullying, and efforts should be made to locate some of those videos and see if they could be included in the program. Several HRC members will be asked to participate in role-playing exercises as part of the program.

XII. Tonya Amedon reported that the Internal Relations Committee's youth program is up and running. It is held on Wednesdays at the Boys & Girls Club, but plans are being made to extend it to every middle school in the County. Students and parents have told Tonya how much they like it. Lisa Clark is assigning AmeriCorps staff to help extend the program in the schools.

XIII. Kavonte Duckett presented the Nominating Committee's slate of officers for 2016-2017. He reported that the Nominating Committee was composed of the following HRC members: Francisco Alves, Annette Breiling, Debbie Peeks, Gene Stanton and himself. Kavonte reported that the slate of officers nominated was as follows:

Chair	Mari Lee
Vice-Chair	Tonya Amedon
Treasurer	Lisa Clark
Parliamentarian	David Kaye
Member at Large	Kavonte Duckett

Members were reminded that the HRC will vote to elect officers for the coming year at its June 28, 2016 meeting.

XIV. Chair Angela Spencer presented the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the County Executive reappoint HRC members Mari Lee and Adam Book. A vote was held, and the members present voted unanimously in favor of those recommendations.

A vote on the remaining two vacancies will take place at the June 28 HRC meeting.

XV. Proposed revisions to the HRC by-laws were distributed and discussed. Several additional changes were proposed.

XVI. Members were reminded that good weather is here, and it is important to support HRC events and activities by volunteering to work at the HRC booth at public events and activities.

XVII. The meeting was adjourned.